1	2		3		4	
Coal India Ltd. (including NEC area) . . .	178·62	264·69	189·64	277·18	204·15	298·59
Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	17·80	337·28	17·71	401·05	20.58	450.76

Changes in coal policy

2298. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
DR. SANJAYA SINH:
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bring more changes in coal policies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the efforts being made to remove the bottlenecks for easy and quick availabiilty of coal to consumers in different sectors; and

(d) whether any special steps are being made to study and control fires in Jharia Coalfields?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) The Government have decided to allow private sector participation in coal mining operation in virgin areas for the purpose of captive consumption for power generation and other and uses to be notified as well as to set up coal washeries. A Bill has been introduced in the Parliament to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 in order to implement the above decision of the Government.

(c) In order to meet the increased demand of coal in coming years, steps are being taken to open new mines, reorganise existing mines, improve efficiency and optimise coal production. Close coordination is being maintained with consumers and the transport sector to ensure that the coal produced can be reached to consumers.

The demand for coal has been satisfied to the extent of 89%, 90% and 93% during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 respectively.

(d) After nationalisation of the coking coal mines in 1971, Bharat Coking Coal Limited have formulated 22 schemes for dealing with major fires in the 'Jharia Coalfield. Total amount sanctioned for these schemes is Rs. 114.57 crores and these are under different stages of implementation. As a result of these efforts. 5 fires have been fully extinguished. In addition at 3 sites protective measures required to deal with fires have been completed and it will take some more time before these fires are completely extinguished. At another 13 sites fires have been contained and further work to completely extinguish these fires is in progress. Effective monitoring of the progress of fire projects for improvement of the effectiveness of the control of fire operations is being done.

2299. [*Transferred to the 4th August 1992*]

Financing of Information Technology Development and Diffusion Project by World Bank

2300. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has initiated talks with the Depart-

ment of Electronics to finance an Information Technology Development and Diffusion Project in India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. World Bank has initiated discussions to finalise an Information Technology Development and Diffusion Project in India.

(b) The overall project objective is to promote the effective use, diffusion and production of Information Technology in India through a demand-driven strategy with a mutually reinforcing set of instruments. Specificially, the project would:

(i) stimulate use of diffusion of Information Technology in key areas;

(ii) promote the growth of productivity of local software and information services industry; and

(iii) strengthen the enabling environments policy framework, infrastructure and capabilities.

Research report on Indian softwares

2301. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently received a research report from the Western countries about the Indian Softwares;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof,

(c) whether Government intends to export more Indian Software by improving its quality; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) A study was undertaken by the Department of Electronics with assistance from the World Bank to identify sectors, products and geographical market which the Indian Software Industry can exploit.

(b) The study has been completed covering an analysis of the Indian software scenario, demand analysis and opportunity assessment. It has also examined the strengths and weaknesses including productivity cost and quality of some of the competing countries. The study also addressed aspects related to training and education for building up a reservoir of software personnel.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government has already started a number of schemes for upgrading the quality of manpower and for validation and quality certification of software.

Foreign companies to set up computer and information related training institutes

2302. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow foreign companies to set up computer and information related training institutions;

(b) if so, the details of the foreign companies which have shown interest to set up their institutes in the country;

(c) whether the proposed foreign companies would have any impact on indigenous companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) There is no proposal